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Eminent Domain Task Force
Tuesday, June 12, 2008
2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

MINUTES

I. Call to Order and Introductions

1. Task Force Members Present: Co-chair Tim Ford, Rep. Larry Springer, Bernard Ryan (on behalf of Sen. Adam Kline), Bill Maurer, Craig Johnson, Bryce Brown (by phone), Dan Wood, Paul Guppy, Mark Lamb, Randy Bannecker
2. Other Attendees: Jim Irish, Tom Stowe, Lydia Murray, Steve Hammond, Mike Grossman (by phone), Lloyd Tömmila

II. Discussion of Rep. Springer's Bill

1. Talk about status of bill from 08 session
 - a. Bill was hung up in Senate Transportation Committee
 - b. Senator Haugan asked for a last minute DOT fiscal note
2. Talk about future of bill
 - a. Because the issue is so complex Springer is thinking about breaking up bill
 - b. Change in reimbursement, buy back option, requiring condemner to show due diligence
3. Discussion about reimbursement
 - a. Sound Transit automatically offers \$5,000 for appraisal and \$7,500 for legal fees
 - b. There was a lot of talk about reimbursement upfront vs. at closing and flat fees

III. HB 2921

1. Narrows the statute while still allowing municipalities to transfer blighted property for better use
2. One member mentioned that Ports are a strange participant of the community renewal law since they are industrial development agencies

IV. Guest Speaker Walter Bradley, Former New Mexico Lieutenant Governor

1. New Mexico did a fairly comprehensive study of eminent domain. They looked at every mention of eminent domain in state law and made recommendations on each individually
2. Public input was very informative to New Mexico Group

3. How the New Mexico process went
 - a. The recommendations of the group were opposed by the municipalities and the counties
 - b. During legislation there were battles in the committees but the floor votes passed the measures easily
4. Generated four pieces of legislation
 - a. Eminent domain for public buildings, roads and canals was confirmed
 - b. Urban Renewal Law and the Community Development Act were repealed
 - c. They became the Metropolitan Redevelopment Act and eminent domain is not included, blight is redefined and public notices were updated
5. Craig Johnson asked about the importance of a mandate from the governor
 - a. Walter Bradley replied that it was very important for the momentum of the group
 - b. He also said involving the press was important and public awareness was instrumental in the easy passage of the legislation on the floor
6. One of Walter Bradley's closing statements was "Private property rights are sacred, if we can't protect property rights, what is the government good for?"

V. Discussion About Next Steps

1. Action items
 - a. Review membership of task force
 - b. Recommend issue areas to focus on and timelines for town hall meetings
 - c. Contact committees before session

VI. Adjourn